



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter

May 2021

[covering 3/27/2021 – 4/26/2021] <https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog/>

UU Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Environmental Justice (EJ): Addressing disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental effects in communities of low-income residents or persons of color.

EJTF ACTIVITIES

- EJTF member Christine Dunbar** participated in a rally to protest the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's pending East 300 Upgrade Project, which includes two compressor station upgrades in Wantage, NJ and Susquehanna County, PA and the installation of a new electric-driven compressor turbine in a former quarry near the Monksville Reservoir, NJ. See article with additional information on p. 15. The project is at the stage when only the Governor may be able to stop it from advancing; citizens are encouraged to contact his office at 609-292-6000.



Owl of the Ramapough Lenape Nation



Sam DiFalco of Food & Water Watch, Owl of the Ramapough Lenape Nation, and Christine Dunbar of EJTF



NJ Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel

- EJTF Co-Chair Ray Nichols, and EJTF members including Nancy Griffeth,** have been actively participating in the key EJ Cumulative Impacts Law rulemaking stakeholder meetings being held by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Implementation of this law is a key focus of the environmental justice community. **See p. 4 for information on the next EJ Cumulative Impacts Law stakeholder meeting, to be held Thursday, May 6, 2021 (registration required by May 3, 2021).**

- **EJTF member Sally Gellert** co-hosted an Earth Week Special "Eco-Logic" radio show. The Eco-Logic radio show is on WBAI 99.5 fm on Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Sally is a regular host. You can listen to past shows here: <http://www.comicbookradioshow.com/eco-logic.html>.
- **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth** and Melissa Miles, Executive Director of our partner the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) presented a webinar on "Systemic Racism: Environmental Justice, Race and Class," sponsored by Social Justice Matters of Scotch Plains. They spoke about their work and advocacy efforts, provided updates on issues, described ways people can get involved and make a difference, and answered questions.
- **The EJTF April meeting featured guest speaker David Pringle**, legislative strategist for Clean Water Action with over 30 years of experience advocating on environmental issues with the New Jersey legislature. He is also currently a consultant advocating in support of New Jersey's Green Amendment, one of EJTF's priority issues for 2021. David provided us with a wealth of information on the legislative and budget processes in NJ, and how we can have the most impact with our actions.

CONGRATULATIONS to New Jersey's TWO White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council Members!

New Jersey will be represented by two members on the new 26-member White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC), and both of them are from partner organizations of EJTF: Maria Lopez-Nuñez, Deputy Director, Organizing and Advocacy, of the Ironbound Community Corporation, and Dr. Nicky Sheats, Esq., founding member and board member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA).

We are thrilled for NJ communities to be represented by such capable advocates at this important decision-making table. WHEJAC was established by President Biden's Executive Order on "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" to fulfill his and Vice President Harris's commitment to confronting long-standing environmental injustices and to ensuring that historically marginalized and polluted, overburdened communities have greater input on federal policies and decisions. More information is here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/29/white-house-announces-environmental-justice-advisory-council-members/>.

If you would like to attend a virtual meeting of WHEJAC, or submit written comments or make public comments, visit the website at <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>. **The next meeting is May 13, 2021.** Registration is required; pre-registration for public comments is required one week prior to the meeting date.

An article about Nicky Sheats, including background on the NJ EJ Bill - "He Helped Pass a Historic EJ Bill. But He's Just Getting Started" - is here: <https://grist.org/fix/he-helped-pass-a-historic-environmental-justice-bill-but-hes-just-getting-started/>. A 6-minute video interview with Maria Lopez-Nuñez - "Meet Organizer Maria Lopez-Nuñez" - is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixNpfoYQrWc>.

EJTF's GOALS FOR 2021

1) Reduce fossil fuel emissions, especially in EJ neighborhoods, with focus on transportation

Follow the lead of our Environmental Justice partners including the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, the Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action. This will have direct impact on health of residents in EJ neighborhoods. See articles on pp. 13 - 16.

2) Reduce lead in households, both in drinking water and lead paint

Following the lead of our EJ partners (see #1, above), help promote outreach to residents about avoiding or reducing lead in drinking water and lead paint in their households. See articles on p. 16.

3) Promote the Green Amendment

Support the Green Amendment: conduct outreach, especially through UU Congregations, to build understanding and support for the NJ pending legislative resolutions (SCR30/ACR80), which promote the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment. Follow the lead of "Green Amendments for the Generations." The Green Amendment is supported by our EJ partners. A link to a video of Maya van Rossum's Green Amendment webinar is on p. 9. **Note: To be considered for a vote in this year's General Election, the deadline for the legislature to act on the Green Amendment is before August 2, 2021. You can easily send a message to your state legislators here:**

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/protect-environmental-rights-for-the-people-of-new-jersey>.

EVENTS

Some upcoming, and some past but viewable as videos.

[EJTF members - also watch for email announcements of events with short lead times!]

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Second-Quarter Public Hearing Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Location and timing of the second quarter public hearing are forthcoming, as well as additional details. Check the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) website (here: <https://nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/index.html>) for additional information.

NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - **Virtual Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

This meeting will be held on Microsoft Teams; information on joining the meeting is here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/calendar/public.html>

**DEP Cumulative Impacts EJ Law Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting
for EJ/Environmental/Community Organizations
"Process and EJ Impact Statements"
Thursday, May 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Implementation of the NJ EJ Cumulative Impacts Law is a key focus of the environmental justice community. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is holding a Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting on "Process and EJ Impact Statements" on May 6, 2021. **RSVP here (registration will close on Monday, May 3, 2021):**

<https://www.njdepcalendar.com/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=680>.

All meeting recordings and presentations will continue to be posted here:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html>. These include recordings and the presentation from the stakeholder meetings on April 7 about Renewal/Expansion Conditions & Compelling Public Interest. Input can be provided on that topic until May 3, 2021, via a survey (available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NH9BRG>).

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection
NJ PACT (Protecting Against Climate Threats)
Proposed Rule "Advance Clean Trucks Program and Fleet Reporting Requirement"
Virtual Public Hearing
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

On 4/19/2021, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published a Climate Pollution Reduction proposed rule in the NJ Register entitled "Advanced Clean Trucks Program and Fleet Reporting Requirements." This proposed rule, which is part of the NJ PACT (Protecting Against Climate Threats) targeted regulatory reform effort, has two components, as follows: "First, the Advanced Clean Trucks Program will require manufacturers of vehicles over 8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) to participate in a credit/deficit program intended to increase the percentage of zero-emission vehicles sold in New Jersey...Second, the Fleet Reporting Requirement imposes a one-time reporting requirement intended to obtain information about the in-State operation of fleets of vehicles over 8,500 pounds GVWR that will inform future decisions concerning further emission reductions from the transportation sector."

Additional information, including links to the proposal and a link to a virtual Public Hearing to be held on May 12, 2021, are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/njpact/>. If you are interested in providing oral testimony at this virtual public hearing, email Monica.Miranda@dep.nj.gov no later than 5:00 P.M. on May 17, 2021, with your contact information (name, organization, telephone number, and a valid email address so you can be sent a confirmation email).

Sustainable Jersey **Virtual** Sustainability Summit Multiple dates, Monday, May 17, 2021 - Friday, May 21, 2021



NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

bit.ly/SustainabilitySummit21

panel discussions, talks,
coaching sessions,
networking



Sustainable Jersey is a network and movement of municipalities, schools and school districts working collectively to bring about a sustainable NJ. Acting with state agencies, non-profit organizations, foundations, academia and industry, Sustainable Jersey researches best practices for what communities could and should do to contribute to a sustainable future. This year's Summit includes virtual educational sessions, social "happy hours", short expert talks, coaching sessions, and activities for municipalities and schools. Participants will also have an opportunity to connect with energy and green product vendors, and municipal professional service providers (e.g. planners, attorneys, engineers).

The free Virtual Sustainability Summit substantive sessions are listed below. There are also happy hours, networking sessions and other activities. View full descriptions of all events here: https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Events_and_Trainings/Sustainability_Summit/2021/2021_Summit_event_listing.pdf. **Registration links for each event are available here:** <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/events/2021-sustainability-summit/>.

Monday, May 17, 2021

- "Look at Where We Are and the Road Ahead," 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- "Get the Lead Out!," 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

- "Education for Climate Change: A Nonpartisan Primer," 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
- "Challenging Implicit Bias: Exploring the Way Forward," 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- "Enhance Community Water Resources Through Water Gold," 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

- Green Biz Speed Networking: Green Products & Services, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- "Building a Sustainable Workplace Culture," 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
- "The Complete & Green Streets Doctor is 'in'," 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- "Climate Interpreter: Best Practices for Talking about Climate Change," 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 20, 2021

- "Join the EVolution!," 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
- "Show Me the Data!," 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.
- "Want a Healthier Community? Go for the Gold!," 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
- Sustainable Movie Night: "Kiss the Ground," 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, May 21, 2021

- Sustainable Jersey for Schools Goes Digital, 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
- "Reducing the Energy Burden: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for All," 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Rutgers Climate Institute Listing of **Virtual Climate Seminars Multiple dates**

Multiple online events are listed on this site, including those from the Rutgers Climate Institute and also many climate-related events sponsored by various groups such as EPA, NOAA, and others. Listed below is a sampling of webinars taking place in May 2021. Further information about these seminars, and other seminars that have been listed to date, is here (**check the site periodically for an updated list**):

<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/range.listevents/>.

"EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series: Featuring the Climate Safe Neighborhood Partnership" Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series focuses on illustrating how addressing systemic racism is highly relevant to the missions of EPA and other environmental agencies. The series is currently examining the relationship of redlining and current environmental disparities. Redlining data was key to Groundwork Trusts' community organizing efforts to secure climate provisions in Richmond, Virginia's master plan, green infrastructure in Elizabeth, NJ, and other public policy advances. Linking evidence of structural racism to current environmental conditions provides a powerful tool for communities working for transformative change. Learn about the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership and how youth in two of Groundwork's Trusts, Groundwork Hudson Valley, and Groundwork Richmond, VA, and other places are leading the way in working closely with residents and stakeholders to organize, mobilize, and effect systems change to make communities more resilient to extreme heat and flooding. More information and registration is here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-safe-neighborhoods-partnership-tickets-148489944421/>

New Jersey WasteWise Business Network Webinar/Meeting Thursday, May 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is a free educational program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn how waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement not only help the environment, but also their bottom line. At this webinar/meeting, the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network and the Association of New Jersey Recyclers will hear from the following groups: New Jersey Clean Communities on "New Jersey's Upcoming Ban on Single Use Bags;" the U.S. Plastics Pact on "Rethinking the Way We Design, Use and Reuse Plastics;" the Reusable Packaging Association on "The Environmental and Economic Benefits of Reusable Transport Packaging;" and Merck & Co., Inc. on "Case Study: Merck & Co., Inc.'s Award Winning Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiatives." Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3262667028106144528>.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Virtual Public Meeting Thursday, May 6, 2021, 12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) is a federal advisory committee to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), established September 30, 1993. "The Council provides advice and recommendations about broad, cross-cutting issues related to environmental justice, from all stakeholders involved in the environmental justice dialogue. In addition, the NEJAC provides a valuable forum for discussions about integrating environmental justice with other EPA

priorities and initiatives." [Note: this is not the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council - that Council is having a virtual meeting on May 13, 2020 - see p. 2.] The meeting discussions will include, but not be limited to, EPA administration transition priorities, and discussions and deliberations of a charge related to the reuse and revitalization of Superfund and other contaminated sites. **Registration is required** - register here: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_sK5kdQWdSgCgch7VdilSFw. Each NEJAC meeting will have a public comment period from approximately 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. To speak during the May 6, 2021 meeting you must register by April 29, 2021, 11:59 p.m. Public Comment Guidelines (oral and written) are here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-guidelines-public-comment-o>.

**"Progress on the "Wicked" Problem: Overcoming Behavioral and Decision Making Hurdles to Address Climate Change and Decarbonize Society"
Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

This webinar is part of the Dartmouth series "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers" (see below for more information about the series).

The webinar will be presented by Gregg Sparkman, a postdoctoral research associate in the Andlinger Center at Princeton University. "Climate change has been aptly described as a "Wicked" problem from a behavioral science standpoint as it thwarts key heuristics in our decision making and demands substantial change. One prominent challenge we examine here is how to motivate people to adopt novel sustainable behaviors, technologies and policy attitudes that go against current norms. We will discuss a novel approach to this problem: shifting people's attention away from current norms and onto changes in norms over time ("dynamic norm information") can motivate people to abandon current norms and adopt more sustainable alternatives. We also investigate a second major challenge: how do we ensure people consistently act across important climate domains, including both behavior and policy support? Past research warns that sustainable behavior may "negatively spillover" and lead people to reduce support for important decarbonization policies. In this talk, we will discuss under what (limited) circumstances this occurs, and how achieve "positive spillover" instead so that sustainable actions actually increase decarbonization policy support." Register here: https://dartmouth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EuGgPrizQUWMjKq2a8OoRQ.

New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers is an online series featuring graduate, post-doctoral, and other early-career researchers sharing their discoveries and perspectives on energy-related topics. From policy to analysis to emerging research, this series will give anyone interested in energy the opportunity to learn from the rising stars in the field. For more information about the program, about this and future talks, and for links to past talks, see <https://irving.dartmouth.edu/engagement/new-energy-conversations-early-career-energyresearchers>.

"Climate Change and Health: Converging Threats, Cascading Health Risks: Now, More Than Ever: Movement Building for Climate, Racial, and Health Justice"
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 5:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The UCSF School of Medicine Office of Population Health and Health Equity and the UCSF Center for Climate, Health, and Equity will present this webinar, part of a series on Climate Change and Health chaired by Sheri Weiser, MD, MPH. There has never been a more critical time for advancing health, equity and social justice while addressing climate change. This session will focus on the synergies between climate and racial justice movements and their promise for improving health, as well as community-based advocacy and policy initiatives to promote climate and racial justice in California and beyond. Register here:

https://ucsf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5mQiPptqTyawxokWGzC6yA.

**Cornell University - Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability - Virtual
Climate Change Seminar Series**
Multiple dates Mondays, 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This university-wide seminar series provides important views on the critical issue of climate change, drawing from many perspectives and disciplines. Experts from Cornell University and beyond present an overview of the science of climate change and climate change models, the implications for agriculture, ecosystems, and food systems, and provide important economic, ethical, and policy insights on the issue. The seminar series is being organized and sponsored by the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering and the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability. Seminars are available as Zoom Webinars; information and the link is here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/events/ClimateChangeSem.php>. A May seminar that may be of interest is listed below.

May 10, 2021: "Estimating Vector-borne Disease Transmission in a Human-modified World"

Presented by Courtney Murdock Entomology, Cornell University - Climate change will alter the distribution and intensity of transmission of vector-borne diseases, potentially increasing the probability of disease emergence and threatening the fragile gains current control programs have made in combatting these diseases. Many diseases that have recently emerged or are re-emerging globally are mosquito-borne, and it has been well established that temperature has non-linear effects on vector-borne disease transmission. Thus, the effects of climate change on disease transmission will likely differ across regions. This seminar will explore the mechanisms that generate complex effects of temperature on mosquito-borne disease in the malaria and arbovirus systems and will discuss implications for transmission of these diseases in a changing climate.

VIDEOS OF PAST CONFERENCES AND WEBINARS

NJ Department of Environmental Protection EJ Rulemaking Stakeholder Meetings Videos of Webinars

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is in the process of holding a series of stakeholder meetings on the new EJ cumulative impacts law. Each session is being held in two parts: one for "Business, Industry, Trade & Builders Organizations" and one for "Environmental Justice, Environmental, Community, and Related Stakeholders." Links to videos of previous webinars are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html>.

"A Green Amendment in New Jersey?" - Video of Webinar

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills (UUCSH) hosted a webinar presentation "A Green Amendment in New Jersey? - A Conversation with Maya Van Rossum." Maya van Rossum is the award-winning Founder of "Green Amendments For the Generations," a grassroots non-profit organization inspiring a nationwide movement to secure constitutional recognition and protection of environmental rights in every state and ultimately at the federal level. View the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wis8kozct5o>.

"Electrifying NJ Transit's Bus Fleet" - Video of Webinar

This webinar featured a panel of experts who discussed why NJ Transit needs to transition towards electric buses, the challenges it faces, and the opportunities to learn from other transit agencies across the country. The panel included: NJ Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg; Chuck Ray, Rocky Mountain Institute; Janna Chernetz, Tri-State Transportation Campaign; and Nausheen Rajan, New Jersey Policy Perspective. View the webinar here: <https://environmentnewjersey.org/news/nje/webinar-outlines-urgent-need-nj-transit's-transition-electric-buses>.

"The Path to Net-Zero" Video of Webinar

The Princeton G. S. Beckwith Gilbert '63 Lecture Series presented "The Path to Net-Zero" featuring William Bohnett, chair of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and a member of Princeton's Class of 1970, in discussion with Chris Greig, a senior research scientist in Princeton's Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment and co-author of the recent Princeton Net-Zero America study (available here: <https://environmenthalfcentury.princeton.edu/research/2020/big-affordable-effort-needed-america-reach-net-zero-emissions-2050-princeton-study>). A video of the event, which was co-sponsored by Princeton's High Meadows Environmental Institute (HMEI), is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=194pzXmEJfs>.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership "Brownfields and EJ Communities of Practice" Videos of Webinars

This virtual Brownfields and Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities of Practice series provided information on environmental justice policies, presented Brownfield project updates in the Urban Waters cities including Camden, NJ, and focused on community activities related to environmental justice.

Webinar 1: "Environmental Justice and Urban Waters"

Topics include: "Urban Waters Overview and Updates;" "Defining Environmental Justice by the Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition;" "Federal Perspectives on Environmental Justice (US Senator Chris Coons of Delaware Office, US EPA, US Department of the Interior, NOAA);" and "Overview of New Jersey's Environmental Justice Legislation" by Olivia Glenn, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Justice & Equity at New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). View the webinar here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_OPsHAIKo.

Webinar 2 - "Urban Waters City Brownfields Updates"

Topics include: "Philadelphia Updates from Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (South Wetlands Park, Graffiti Pier Park);" "Camden Updates from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Phoenix Park);" and "Wilmington Updates from Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Brightfields, Inc (South Wilmington Wetlands)." View the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWC7YQyTCSU>.

Webinar 3 - "Environmental Justice Community Initiatives"

Topics include: "Port of Wilmington Expansion / DuPont Edgemoor Brownfield Property – Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition;" "Equitability of Access for Oysters – Delaware Sea Grant and Ocean Food Systems, University of New England;" "John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge;" "Environmental Justice on the Elizabeth River;" and "Reconnecting Camden Residents to Their Historic Waterfront." View the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbdXomugUu0>.

"EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series: Features the Mapping Inequality Project" - Video of Webinar

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series, sponsored by the EPA Office of Environmental Justice, focuses on illustrating how addressing systemic racism is highly relevant to the missions of EPA and other environmental agencies. The series is currently examining the relationship of redlining and current environmental disparities. This webinar featured "The Mapping Inequality Project," which "created a foundational resource for unprecedented research, education, organizing, and policy advocacy on redlining and current environmental challenges. It provides publicly accessible digitized versions of redlining maps for about 200 cities. This has already generated an explosion of trailblazing work in the area of environmental justice (EJ) and systemic racism." Two of the Project's founders (Robert Nelson, University of Richmond and LaDale Winling, Virginia Tech.) discussed the genesis, philosophy, methodology, and impact of this game changing project. View the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAUr50eBqWo>.

"Climate Change and Health: Converging Threats, Cascading Health Risks: Climate Change, Food Security, and Migration" Video of Webinar

The UCSF School of Medicine Office of Population Health and Health Equity and the UCSF Center for Climate, Health, and Equity presented a webinar, part of a series on Climate Change and Health chaired by Sheri Weiser, MD, MPH. Climate change is anticipated to unleash unprecedented threats to global food security and to drive the largest wave of human migration in history. This webinar evaluated the intersection of climate change with the social determinants of health, emphasizing the compounding connections between a warming climate, food and water security, and migration. View the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVtkJcXJfLk>.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection "Global Warming Response Act 80X50 Report Public Webinar" - Video of Webinar

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released the "Global Warming Response Act 80x50 Report" in October 2020. The report was written in response to the mandate in the Global Warming Response Act, to reduce NJ's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from their 2006 levels by 2050 (i.e., "80x50"). It builds on the State's previous efforts to address and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and serves as the third element of a comprehensive plan that evaluates NJ's GHG emissions from both energy and non-energy systems, providing guidance, policies, and regulatory and legislative recommendations to meet the State's GHG emission reduction goals. The DEP held a public webinar to provide information about how NJ will reach this ambitious goal. The video of the webinar is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrvjMlau7Z8> and you can view the presentation slides here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/docs/nj-gwra-80x50-public-webinar.pdf>.

"Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Forests" - Video of Webinar

Climate change will have a significant impact on the coastal forests of the Northeastern U.S. Dr. Richard Lathrop and Rachael Sacatelli (Rutgers University) along with Glen Carleton (USGS) presented the latest information on how coastal forests regionally and in NJ are responding to rising seas and storm intensity. They also shared how this information can be used in decision-making and potential management approaches. This webinar is part of the Rutgers NJ Climate Change Resource Center Spring Climate Academy. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fURozx2c70U>

"NJ Coastal Ecological Restoration & Adaptation Plan Stakeholder Workshop" Video of Webinar

This was the kickoff webinar for the NJ "Coastal Ecological Restoration and Adaptation Plan" (CERAP) process. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has awarded a grant to a team of researchers for production of this plan, which will be based on a nomination process utilizing local knowledge to identify and map areas with the greatest potential for net carbon sequestration, ecosystem health, and community resilience in NJ. It will include past, present, and potential future

projects focusing on environmental restoration, enhancement or preservation. Public participation is encouraged; this webinar, sponsored by the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, provided information about the CERAP and how people can get involved. A link to the video of the webinar, along with the required passcode, is available on this webpage:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/>.

Rutgers Environmental Stewards "Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series" - Videos of Webinars

This webinar series focused on steps everyone can take to protect the environment. "We can all do our part to take actions that make our homes more sustainable, from environmentally friendly lawn care, to recycling, to conducting a home energy audit. These actions, more than ever, start at home." Here is a list of the 2021 webinars:

"Starting a Native Plant Garden"

"Responsible Stewardship of New Jersey's Marine Resources"

"Let's Not Pass the Buck: Deer Management in New Jersey"

"RU Wildlife Wise: Spring Babies! Tips for Helping Injured or Orphaned Wildlife"

"Infusing EcoTherapy Into Your Life"

"From Rain Gardens to Rain Barrels: Protecting Watersheds At Home"

"Food Systems and Climate Change"

"Trees, Wonderful Trees"

Links to view videos of these and previous webinars are here:

<https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Earth-Day.html>.

"Climate Conversations: the Cost of Carbon" Video of Webinar

This webinar, sponsored by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, featured Richard Newell of Resources for the Future, Rachel Cleetus, the policy director with the Climate and Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Justin Worland, a Washington D.C.-based senior correspondent for TIME covering climate change and the intersection of policy, politics and society. They discussed the social cost of carbon (SCC), which is a metric used for incorporating the economic impacts of carbon emissions into federal decision-making. The discussion addressed the importance of SCC for addressing the climate change challenge, and considerations for how SCC can advance just and economically sound policies. The conversation also touched on the social cost of other greenhouse gases. The video of the webinar is available here:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/04-15-2021/climate-conversations-the-cost-of-carbon>.

Cornell University - Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability - Climate Change Seminar Series - Videos of Webinars

This university-wide seminar series provides important views on the critical issue of climate change, drawing from many perspectives and disciplines. Experts from Cornell University and beyond present an overview of the science of climate change and climate change models, the implications for agriculture, ecosystems, and food systems, and provide important economic, ethical, and policy insights on the issue. The seminar series is being organized and sponsored by the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering and the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability. Seminars are available as Zoom Webinars; information and the link is here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/events/ClimateChangeSem.php>. A sampling of seminars that took place in April 2021 is listed below.

"Wildfires and Global Climate Change"

James Randerson (University of California, Irvine) - James Randerson studies the global carbon cycle and the role of fires in the Earth System. In his work, he combines satellite observations with climate models to explore changes in the biosphere. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eX3LeZj35Y>.

"Reducing Agricultural Methane From Livestock While Farmers Thrive: Thoughts From Experience in New Zealand"

Suzi Kerr (Environmental Defense Fund) - Suzi Kerr is the Chief Economist at Environmental Defense Fund. She was, until May 2019, a Senior Fellow, and from 1998 - 2009 Founding Director, at Motu Research in New Zealand. Her research work focuses on domestic and international climate-change mitigation policy with special emphasis on emissions pricing and land use. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp6gebFtIdc>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

NJ CLEAN ENERGY EQUITY ACT BILL UPDATE - ACTION STILL NEEDED:

The NJ Clean Energy Equity Act bill (A4185) passed the NJ Senate 11/16/2020, but as of 4/26/2021 it was still waiting to be considered in the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee. Our partner "NJ Shines" has just issued a video describing how environmental justice and low-income New Jersey families stand to benefit the most from lower monthly electric bills, local jobs and a more resilient community that would result from passage of the bill. View the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/537797375>. You can send a message to your Assembly representatives here, telling them to support the Clean Energy Equity Act: <https://www.NJShines.org/Take-Action/>.

- **Why Atlantic City's Minority Neighborhoods Are Also Its Most Flooded** - A new study by the Redfin real estate brokerage, called "A Racist Past, a Flooded Future," used flood-risk data from the research group First Street Foundation, and redlining maps compiled in the University of Richmond's Mapping Inequality project, to analyze 32 million properties in 38 major U.S. metropolitan areas. They found that \$107 billion worth of homes at high risk of flooding were in the "Definitely Declining" and "Hazardous" (redlined) areas. In "Best" and "Still Desirable" areas, there are only \$85 billion worth of homes at high risk of flooding. Camden and Newark were the two NJ cities included in the Redfin study, and both are near the top of the list of metropolitan areas where redlining maps overlay the highest flood risk. This article extrapolates the findings to Atlantic City. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/redlining-atlantic-city-nj-overlooked-underfunded-minority-neighborhoods-back-bay-racist-maps-superstorm-sandy/>
- **Opinion: New Jersey, Ignore the Outsiders. We've Got Our Own Experts to Help Us Thrive** (by **EJTF partners** Maria Lopez-Nuñez, deputy director, organizing and advocacy, for the Ironbound Community Corporation and Melissa Miles, executive director, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance; along with Amanda Devecka-Rinear, executive director, New Jersey Organizing Project. All three serve on the steering committee of NJ THRIVES) - In this piece, the organizers from NJ THRIVES emphasize that "as President Joe Biden and our elected leaders plan for investments in industries like solar, wind and green infrastructure, they must expand opportunities to the very families that have borne the brunt of the prior, failed policies." The NJ THRIVES coalition includes groups at the center of the issues, with expertise and experience in shaping powerful environmental legislation such as the NJ EJ Bill. <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/04/new-jersey-ignore-the-outsiders-weve-got-our-own-experts-to-help-us-thrive-opinion.html>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **NJ to Truck Fleets: Time to Go All Green** - On 4/19/2021, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published a proposed rule in the NJ Register entitled "Advanced Clean Trucks Program and Fleet Reporting Requirements." This proposed rule has two components as follows: "First, the Advanced Clean Trucks Program will require manufacturers of vehicles over 8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) to participate in a credit/deficit program intended to increase the percentage of zero-emission vehicles sold in New Jersey...Second, the Fleet Reporting Requirement imposes a one-time reporting requirement intended to obtain information about the in-State operation of fleets of vehicles over 8,500 pounds GVWR that will inform future decisions concerning further emission reductions from the transportation sector." Additional information is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/njpact/>. A virtual Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, 5/20/2021, at 9:00 a.m. - see "Events" section above for more information. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/nj-wants-electric-trucks-better-air-quality-following-california-model-strong-manufacturers-opposition-expected-aggressive-clean-energy-goals/>
- **Governor Murphy Marks Beginning of Testing for NJ Transit Dual-Power** - On 4/6/2021, a ceremony was held on Track A at Newark Penn Station to mark the beginning of testing of the first of 25 new ALP-45 dual-power locomotives that Gov. Murphy stated "will reinvigorate the NJ Transit fleet with new, environmentally-friendly equipment." The locomotives will meet the current EPA Tier IV requirements, the most rigorous air quality standard to date for new locomotives, reducing emissions compared to the locomotives to be replaced, when operating in diesel mode, and producing zero emissions when operating in electric mode. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210406a.shtml>

- **NJ's Bus Fleet Should Go All-Electric, Advocates Say** - A new report ("Roadmap to Electrifying New Jersey's Public Bus Fleet," available here: <https://www.njpp.org/publications/report/roadmap-to-electrifying-new-jerseys-public-bus-fleet/>), published by the nonpartisan think tank New Jersey Policy Perspective, examines the benefits of public transit, particularly for people of color and low-income populations. It describes the environmental and public health perils of a diesel-based fleet and reviews the environmental and health benefits of electric buses, provides the major costs to and long-term savings of electrifying NJ Transit's bus fleet, and gives recommendations for funding and for a "smoother and more equitable transition from diesel to electric public buses." www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/electric-bus-diesel-greenhouse-gas-emissions-nj-transit-new-jersey-policy-perspective-think-tank-biden/



FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Environmental Advocates Rally in West Milford to Protest Gas Compressor Project** - Members of Food & Water Watch, NJ Sierra Club and local nonprofit Sustainable West Milford spoke during a rally in West Milford to protest the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's pending East 300 Upgrade Project (see p. 1). The speakers criticized elected officials from Gov. Murphy to the town council for a failure to oppose the project. Their concerns are many and include: the greatly increased pressure, from fracked gas, in a 65-year-old pipeline; pipeline proximity to the Monksville reservoir drinking water supply to 2 million NJ residents; frequent and unannounced blowdowns that emit noxious gases proven to affect health; and an unequipped response team for emergencies. West Milford is a recreation area where people come to breathe fresh air and where clean, fresh drinking water must be protected according to the Highlands Act. On their part, West Milford Town Council members maintain that they are powerless to stop the federally-regulated project and that critics have been inflating the health and safety risks. Environmental advocates stressed that North Jersey is being made into yet another sacrifice zone, and that the project is a slap in the face for Pres. Biden's ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and Gov. Murphy's climate policy agenda. A determination from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) officials, regarding final project approval, could be announced in May. Another information session from pipeline officials is planned in May, since the last session was criticized for lacking a question and answer period. If the project is allowed to go forward, construction could start in the fall of 2021 and gas could be flowing by fall of 2022. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/environmental-advocates-rally-in-west-milford-to-protest-gas-compressor-project/ar-BB1gOGhm>

- **Looking to Halt LNG Expansion, Opponents Urge Biden to Block Exports** - Over 200 groups from 27 states, involving several UU congregations and groups, sent a letter to President Biden to stop the proliferation of liquified natural gas (LNG) export facilities, and immediately stop implementation of the previous administration's Executive Order and subsequent rulemaking to allow the transport of LNG by rail. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/urge-president-biden-halt-lng-export-port-development-gibbstown-south-jersey-implications-fracking-pollution/>
- **Foes Gear Up for Newest Fight Against NJ/NY Gas Pipeline** - After almost a year of inaction, the Williams Transco company, seeking to build a massive methane gas compressor station and 23.4-mile methane gas pipeline - the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) - through New Jersey communities, Raritan Bay, Lower New York Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean from Sayreville, New Jersey to Rockaway, New York, is drawing strong grassroots opposition once again. In a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Williams Transco “requests an additional two years, or until May 3, 2023, to complete the construction of the NESE Project and make it available for service.” Citizens and advocacy groups **including UUFANJ** issued a press release (available here: http://cleanoceanaction.org/fileadmin/editor_group2/General/PressRelease-NESEreturnFERC-4.1.21.pdf) asking FERC for an extension to the 15-day comment period on Williams Transco’s request, and opposing the Extension of Time for many reasons. Further, the groups point out that Williams Transco has applied five times and has never received a single approval. <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/foes-gear-up-for-newest-fight-against-nj-ny-gas-pipeline/2977679/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **Will Biden’s Spending Plan Allow NJ to Replace All Lead Water Lines?** - It is projected that it will cost \$2.3 billion to replace the estimated 350,000 lead service lines remaining in NJ. However, it is estimated that NJ could receive \$1.35 billion from the \$2 trillion infrastructure package proposed by President Biden, if it is passed. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/nj-lead-service-lines-2-3-billion-overhaul-cost-but-banking-president-biden-infrastructure-plan-at-least-1-billion-newark-successful-replacement-template/>
- **Testing for Lead Poisoning in NJ Children Decreased during Pandemic** (news video) - This short news video describes the findings that, although testing for lead levels in children decreased in NJ in 2020, the percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels rose, likely caused by their spending more time at home. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/testing-for-lead-poisoning-in-nj-children-decreased-during-pandemic/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Biden to Expand Offshore Wind Development along Jersey Coastline** - After delays experienced during the previous administration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has identified nearly 800,000 acres as Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) in the New York Bight, between Long Island and the NJ coast. The agency will now initiate an environmental review, with public input, on these areas in federal waters for potential offshore wind leasing. In addition, on 3/29/2021, the BOEM announced a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) submitted by Ocean Wind LLC (Ocean Wind) that would allow it to construct and operate an 1,100 megawatt wind energy facility offshore NJ. The publication of the NOI opens a 30-day public comment period, during which BOEM will hold three virtual public scoping meetings and accept comments related to the EIS. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/biden-to-expand-offshore-wind-development-along-jersey-coastline/>

- **NJBPU Announces Major Step Forward in Offshore Wind Goals with Launch of First-of-its-Kind Competitive Solicitation** - Regional grid operator PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) has opened a 120-day solicitation window on behalf of the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for qualified developers to submit potential transmission solutions that would help deliver offshore wind energy to the existing power grid. This is at the request of the BPU to incorporate NJ's offshore wind public policy goals into PJM's regional transmission planning process through a novel pathway known as the State Agreement Approach. NJ the first state to fully align its offshore wind transmission goals with its regional grid operator's planning process, which the BPU states will allow NJ to explore options for an optimal long-term solution for offshore wind transmission that otherwise may not have been available at this stage of development. The competitive solicitation process contains extensive consumer protections – such as the ability to phase-in transmission upgrades to control cost – and provides the BPU the right to terminate the process at any time without making a selection.

<https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/newsroom/2021/approved/20210415.html>

- **410 = Record Applications for Second Year of Community Solar Energy Pilot Program** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) received a record 410 applications to participate in Year 2 of its Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The applications represent 800.5 MW of total capacity and all but one project have committed to serving low- to moderate-income (LMI) communities. Year 2 of the Pilot Program is anticipated to allocate 150 MW of award capacity, which is double that of Year 1. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/410-nj-community-solar-pilot-program-draws-410-applications-second-year/>



- **What Will a Total Solar Future Cost?** - On 4/7/2021, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) staff issued a straw proposal for NJ Solar Successor Program (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Solar%20Successor%20Program%20Notice%20and%20Straw%20Proposal.pdf>), which is part of the revision of NJ's solar energy incentive programs. The straw proposal includes recommendations, background, questions for stakeholder feedback, and the schedule of stakeholder workshops. The last scheduled workshop is 5/3/2021. Goals of the program include lowering costs to customers, but not at the expense of the solar energy job sector. To this end, it includes a competitive solicitation program for larger solar projects - considered an efficient method to provide large projects while keeping costs down - as a cost-effective way to meet the state's Energy Master Plan target. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/what-will-a-total-solar-future-cost>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **NJ Makes Pitch for Massive Shifts in Statewide Response to Climate Change** - On Earth Day 2021 (4/22/2021), the "New Jersey Climate Change Resiliency Strategy" document (available here: https://d1ung6i9j8i9xc.cloudfront.net/wp-content/blogs.dir/123/files/2021/04/Draft_CCRS_042121_emailfriendly-1.pdf) was released. It builds on the NJ "Scientific Report on Climate Change," released in June 2020, along with other documents. The document defines "climate resilience" as "the ability of social and ecological systems to absorb and adapt to shocks and stresses resulting from a changing climate, while becoming better positioned to respond in the future." It does not contain specific plans, but it rather outlines a broad policy framework for the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience's work. It responds to the fact that, even if NJ meets its emissions reduction goals, climate change is already impacting the state and will continue to do so. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/nj-climate-change-resiliency-strategy-recommends-seismic-changes-include-move-population-away-flood-prone-resiliency-measures-massive-task/>
- **Unchecked Rising Tides Could Sink State's Future for Many** (news video) - This short news video describes a new study from Rutgers University that has found that sea levels are currently rising at a rate not seen in 2,000 years and that South Jersey is particularly vulnerable. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/unchecked-rising-tides-could-sink-states-future-for-many/>

OTHER

- **A New Chapter for the New Jersey School of Conservation** - The NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC) in Stokes State Forest, which had been in existence for over 70 years, had been forced to close in 2020 as a result of fiscal issues exacerbated by COVID-19 concerns, and had been turned over to the state, which owns the land. A temporary access agreement has been reached between the Friends of the NJSOC and the state for limited programming through the end of the year, with possible renewal for two additional years, during which time the state is expected to pursue a long-term facility management agreement, which the Friends of the NJSOC are interested in pursuing. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/a-new-chapter-for-the-new-jersey-school-of-conservation/> [See great photos from the school in this article: <https://enviropolitics.com/friends-of-the-new-jersey-school-of-conservation-sign-temporary-access-agreement-with-the-njdep/>]
- **Nature's Path Gardens For Good Program Announces Winners and Adds 22nd Grant** - The Ben Jones Community Garden in Orange, NJ was selected to receive a \$5,000 grant as one of the winners in the 2021 "Gardens for Good" program, which recognizes the critical role of community gardens and their efforts to provide access to organic, fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables. Special consideration was given to gardens serving BIPOC communities, disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The Ben Jones Community Garden is named after Orange's first Black councilmember. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/natures-path-gardens-for-good-program-announces-winners-and-adds-22nd-grant-301268527.html>
- **Murphy Moves to Make Acting DEP Boss Permanent** - Gov. Murphy announced his nomination of Shawn LaTourette as the next Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), where he has been serving as Acting Commissioner since Catherine R. McCabe announced her retirement in January 2021. Our EJ partner Kim Gaddy, the Environmental Justice Director for Clean Water Action NJ said, "When Shawn LaTourette puts his mind to something, it gets done. We've seen it happen with the passage of the 2020 EJ law." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/shawn-latourette-dep-commissioner-murphy-nomination-acting-commissioner/>

- **New Acting DEP Commissioner Lists NJ's Tough Environmental Challenges** (news video) - In this 10-minute video, Gov. Murphy's new nominee for the next Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Acting Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, describes the current major focus areas for DEP. These include the new EJ Law rulemaking process, the PACT (Protecting Against Climate Threats) regulatory reform effort, meeting NJ's clean energy goals, and addressing water infrastructure needs. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/new-acting-dep-commissioner-lists-njs-tough-environmental-challenges/>
- **Nuclear Subsidy Gets New Challenge** - The NJ Division of Rate Counsel has filed a petition with the NJ Supreme Court asking it to overturn the appellate court's decision upholding the award of \$300 million in subsidies to NJ nuclear power plants. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/nj-rate-counsel-director-stefanie-brand-seeks-supreme-court-reversal-300-million-nuclear-subsidy-pseg/>



- **Widening Turnpike and Parkway at Odds with Murphy's Energy Policy, Critics Say** - The NJ Turnpike Authority has awarded a contract for environmental studies and permitting related to expansion of the Turnpike in South Jersey. In this article, critics of the Turnpike Authority's \$24 billion capital plan again point out its inconsistency with the NJ Energy Master Plan. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/planned-widening-nj-turnpike-garden-state-parkway-south-jersey-billions-dollars-critics-say-contradicts-gov-phil-murphy-clean-energy/>
- **Congressional Push On to Restore Funds for Delaware River Basin Regulator** - Several U.S. Congress representatives have formed a bipartisan Congressional Delaware River Watershed Caucus to increase the focus on the Delaware River Basin, which has received less federal support than other major water systems. One area to be prioritized is the restoration of federal funding, which is supposed to be provided to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) but has not been forthcoming in 21 of the last 23 years. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/delaware-river-basin-commission-promised-federal-funding-now-possible-higher-national-priority-new-congressional-caucus-behind-push/>
- **EPA Awards \$500,000 to Clean Up 25 School Buses in New Jersey** - The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) of 2010 allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to offer rebates in addition to grants to reduce harmful emissions from older, dirtier diesel vehicles. Since its inception, the rebate program has funded vehicle replacements or retrofits for over 2,000 vehicles. In previous years, the amount of the rebate was based solely on bus size. This year, the amount of the

rebate was based on the fuel type of the replacement bus, from \$20,000 for diesel or gasoline, up to \$65,000 for battery or hydrogen electric. Based on the amounts awarded to the NJ communities (i.e., \$500,000 for replacement of 25 buses), they are all being replaced with diesel or gasoline buses. Newer diesel engines must meet stricter EPA standards and are cleaner than older engines, so even though alternate fuel sources will not be used, some improvement in emissions is expected.
<https://enviropolitics.com/epa-awards-500000-to-clean-up-25-school-buses-in-new-jersey/>

- **What Ratepayers Will Pay In Subsidies for NJ's Nuclear Power Plants** - This article summarizes the issues surrounding whether NJ's three remaining nuclear power plants should continue to receive state subsidies and, if so, how much they should receive. This is an agenda item at the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) 4/27/2021 Board Meeting, so an answer may be forthcoming then. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/what-ratepayers-will-pay-in-subsidies-for-njs-nuclear-power-plants/>
- **Opinion: Nuclear Energy Is Essential to NJ's Goal of 100% Clean Energy by 2050** (by Carol M. Browner, former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency who serves on the Advocacy Council for "Nuclear Matters") - The author presents arguments for the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) preserving the nuclear subsidies provided to the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants to "ensure clean, carbon-free energy remains competitive with dirty fossil fuel." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/clean-energy-2050-global-warming-greenhouse-gases-clean-nuclear-power-global-climate-change-dirty-fossil-fuel/>

NJ FOREST-RELATED BILLS OF CONCERN

A suite of bills (S 3547 -S 3550) would result in degradation of forest canopy, including in the Pinelands, Highlands and statewide areas, mandating burning, passing costs to municipalities, and taking away forest oversight including tree ordinances from municipalities. If passed, these bills would contribute to global warming by destroying trees that sequester carbon dioxide. The bills, summarized below, have been promoted by Senator Bob Smith, District 17.

S3547 would establish a vaguely authorized "working group" to evaluate the coordination and cooperation between various government entities and private landowners concerning forest stewardship in the Pinelands area, and to recommend how coordination and cooperation could be improved so as to encourage and promote greater forest stewardship; it seems written to help the logging industry.

S3548 sets a statewide goal of conducting prescribed burns on a minimum of 50,000 acres in the Pinelands area -- every year -- and an additional 10,000 acres elsewhere in the state -- again, every year -- whether forest conditions require controlled burns or not.

S3549 would require all forested lands of 25 acres or more to have required "stewardship" plans within five years that include mandated "controlled" forest fires.

S3550 not only prevents municipalities from passing any ordinances that require local approval of any NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) "stewardship" (i.e., "logging") plan, the bill even bans any municipality from opposing such plans.

Details about the objections of most environmental groups to these bills are described in this article: <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-measure-requiring-stewardship-plans-public-forests-controversey-storm-protest-logging-destruction-fears/>. Concerned citizens are asking their municipalities to sign resolutions in opposition to these bills. All four bills are now in the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. Contact members of that committee: Bob Smith, Linda Greenstein, Christopher Bateman, Richard Codey and Kristin Corrado with your concerns.



MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past year. Either call through the EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-292-6000). Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in NJ are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/>
Co-Chairs – Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols
Visit our website for Environmental links and resources / sign up for email alerts / join the EJTF
